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TUESDAY
DECEMBER 14, 1954

We left this morning for Brussels with André de Staercke, lunching on the train. Baronne Lambert had been good enough to ask us to stay with her, which we did in her magnificent house, crowded with superb art objects.

I went around for a genial chat with Freddie Alger, and then Hansi Lambert, her son, and ourselves went [redacted] to the Foreign Office to dine with the Spaaks. At my request, he had made it a [redacted] small dinner, with only us four, André de Staercke, Bob Rothschild and his wife, and one of Spaak's [redacted] attractive daughters. The Foreign Minister was in his usual witty form and we had a lot of fun -- culinary, vinous, and conversational.

Just before dinner I [redacted] received a telephone call from Jean Monnet from Luxembourg about his worries regarding a successor as President of the High Authority, but had no chance to discuss this with Spaak except in a cursory manner. Both he and Monnet are biding their time to re-introduce some plan for further European integration, but have not settled upon any of the details. Spaak told me he wanted to give me a Belgian decoration, goodness knows for what, but he would defer doing so until I had retired from the State Department and would be free to accept it.

John Brown had met us at the station, and flitted in and out of our lives a couple of times during the afternoon. Simone [redacted] accompanied him on the last occasion. He is now learning Flemish, and [redacted] treating his Belgian audiences to a display of his infinite capacity for amusing people in three languages.

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